

City of Falls Church

Meeting Date: 9-10-12	Title: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO BECOME AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) GREEN POWER PARTNER AND TO INITIATE AN EPA GREEN POWER COMMUNITY CHALLENGE (TR12-25)	Agenda No.: 10 (b) (2)
Proposed Motion: MOVE passage of (TR12-25).		
Originating Dept. Head: Brenda Creel, Director BJC 9-5-12 Department of Public Utilities 703.248.5114	Disposition by Council:	
City Manager: Wyatt Shields 703.248.5004 FWS 9-6-12	City Attorney: John Foster 703.248.5010 JEF 9-6-12	CFO: Richard La Condre 703.248.5092 RAL 9-06-12

REQUEST: That City Council launch a year-long, City wide challenge to become an EPA Green Power Community to further the City's Strategic Vision for Environmental Harmony. Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) will partner with the City to provide funding for related community outreach.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council move passage of TR12-25.

BACKGROUND: City Council's Vision for Environmental Harmony states that "The people of Falls Church believe that protecting and nurturing a healthy natural environment is one of their highest callings . . . The City integrates sustainability into all of its operations, including a strong emphasis on reducing dependence on fossil fuels." Further, the goal to increase the share of regional energy provided by alternative and renewable sources is included in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's adopted *National Capital Region's Climate Change Report* and associated regional work plan. Toward these ends, City government, residents, and local businesses and organizations have an opportunity to demonstrate clean energy leadership through EPA's Green Power Partnership Program and Green Power Community Challenge.

Green power is electricity generated from renewable resources such as solar, wind, biomass, and certain geothermal and hydro resources. Green power purchases help to reduce carbon emissions, accelerate the development of new domestic renewable energy sources, and promote energy security and community sustainability.

EPA's Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program helping to increase the use of renewable energy among governments, businesses, associations, colleges, universities and other leading organizations. Partners commit to purchase and/or generate green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with conventional electricity use.

After signing a Partnership agreement, the City has six months to purchase green power at a level that meets or exceeds Partnership benchmarks, measured as a percentage of total annual electricity consumption. The minimum Partnership purchase requirement for the City is five (5) percent of general government (including utility) use. The FY13 annual cost to participate at this level is \$1,084, reflecting a \$2 surcharge per MWh. (See Attachment A for Green Power Partnership application and more program details.)

This purchase will be made through DVP's Green Power Program which purchases Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) that support the production of energy from solar, wind, and biomass. A REC purchase of five (5) percent of the City's electricity consumption guarantees that the same amount of renewable energy has been generated and delivered to the power pool, thus offsetting conventional electricity generation. In order to assure the integrity of the program, DVP has obtained Green-e Energy Certification, which guarantees that the program meets the environmental and consumer protection standards set by the independent, nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions. (See Attachment B for DVP Green Power program details.)

EPA's Green Power Community Challenge is an annual national, year-long campaign to encourage communities to use renewable energy, combat climate change and promote sustainability goals. Currently, 33 communities have succeeded in meeting their challenge goals, and the City has the opportunity to become the first Green Power Community in Virginia if successful. The challenge period runs from September 2012 through September 2013.

To be successful, the City must

- Join the Green Power Partnership described above
- Initiate a community wide green power campaign to encourage businesses and residents to buy or produce green power in EPA designated amounts
- Once the community has met the green power purchase requirement, submit a Green Power Community Partnership Agreement to EPA and commit to annually submit green power and electricity use data to EPA

DVP has reached out to gauge City interest in a public-private partnership to initiate a Green Power Community Challenge. Staff has worked with DVP to validate government and community energy use, and believes that the goal of residents and businesses collectively purchasing renewable energy for at least three (3) percent of the community's annual baseload electricity utilization is achievable. Onsite energy generation may also be counted against this goal.

DVP has offered to provide significant resources to this initiative through its contractor, 3 Degrees, including the assistance of its Northern Virginia Outreach Coordinator as well as a dedicated part-time outreach associate. In addition, DVP will fund related outreach materials, including flyers, mailings, brochures and lawn signs. The proposed marketing campaign includes outreach at City special events, tables at the Library and other sites, direct mailing and courtesy calls. The City will host comprehensive information and progress reports on its website.

The staff Leadership Team, staff Green Team, Environmental Services Council (ESC) and ESC Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Task Group have received briefings on the proposed initiative and support City participation. (See Attachment C for Green Power Community Partnership agreement and more program details.)

FISCAL IMPACT: Funds in the total amount of \$1,084 are available in the FY13 adopted General Fund and Water Fund budgets. The proposed public-private partnership leverages DVP funding for outreach staff and materials.

TIMING: With Council approval, the Green Power Community Challenge campaign will kick off with the adoption of this Resolution on September 10. Community outreach begins September 15 at the City's Fall Festival.

(TR12-25)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO BECOME AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) GREEN POWER PARTNER AND TO INITIATE AN EPA GREEN POWER COMMUNITY CHALLENGE.

WHEREAS, City Council's Vision for Environmental Harmony states that "The people of Falls Church believe that protecting and nurturing a healthy natural environment is one of their highest callings;" and

WHEREAS, the Vision further states that "The City integrates sustainability into all of its operations, including a strong emphasis on reducing dependence on fossil fuels"; and

WHEREAS, the City launched a Climate Change Initiative in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the City, through the efforts of staff, the Environmental Services Council and the Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Task Group, has completed an inventory of government and community greenhouse gas emissions and baseline energy use; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of electricity from renewable sources will help the City reduce its carbon emissions and pursue its sustainability goals; and

WHEREAS, the Green Power Community Challenge is an EPA-sponsored program that provides municipalities with an opportunity to become Green Power Partners by purchasing Renewable Energy Certificates and/or by installing onsite renewable energy sources and then challenging local businesses and residents to likewise consume energy from renewable sources; and

WHEREAS, the City's purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates will qualify Falls Church for application to the EPA Green Power Partnership.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, authorizes the City Manager to

Make application to EPA to become a Green Power Partner; and

136 Initiate an EPA Green Power Community Challenge to encourage local
137 businesses, community organizations, and residents of the City of Falls Church
138 to consume green power via the purchase of renewable energy and/or the
139 installation of onsite renewable energy sources.
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144 Reading: 9-10-12

145 Adoption: _____